



## Public Information

Contact: Kimberly Evans  
555 Wright Way  
Carson City, Nevada 89711  
Office: (775) 684-4554  
Cell: (775) 721-4479  
Email: [kevans@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:kevans@dps.state.nv.us)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
State Fire Marshal

October 9, 2006

## Nevada Department of Public Safety Announces Fire Prevention Week

*2006 Campaign Theme~Prevent Cooking Fires: "Watch What You Heat"*

*Simple Actions Prevent Painful Injuries & Expensive Property Damage*

*Carson City, Nevada~* The Department of Public Safety's State Fire Marshal Division, along with Governor Guinn's Office and the Fire Prevention Association of Nevada, join other US Fire Jurisdictions in promoting the 2006 campaign, "***Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat***".

For the third year in a row, the DPS Fire Marshal Division reports that most of Nevada's home fires start in the kitchen. In 2005, 289 Nevada home fires began in the kitchen. That's more than one-third of all residential fires reported in the State.

Chief James Wright, Nevada's newly appointed State Fire Marshal, emphasizes, "It's all about awareness. Simple actions make a difference. Nevada's fire service has done a fantastic job responding to and putting out fires during this extremely dry season, but it's our goal to keep the fires from starting in the first place." Chief Wright states that the United States has the best equipped, most highly trained fire service worldwide, yet we have the most fire destruction, deaths, and injuries among highly developed countries. Jeff Donahue, President of the Fire Prevention Association of Nevada adds, "Education is the best way to change this trend, not only during Fire Prevention week, but with constant messages year round."

The following guidelines from the National Fire Protection Association are recommended every time citizens are cooking in their kitchens:

**Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food:** If you leave the kitchen—even for a short time period—turn off the stove. If you do choose to leave, at least carry an oven mitt or lid to a pan with you as reminder that something is still cooking. Remain in the home, and use a timer as a reminder to keep checking food that is simmering, boiling, or baking.

*(More)*

***Add One~Fire Prevention Week~ “Watch What You Heat”***

**Keep kids away from cooking areas—Enforce a “Kid Free Zone” of at least 3 feet:**

Use the stove’s back burners whenever possible [especially when young children are in the home], and turn pot handles back to reduce the risk of pots with hot contents from being knocked over.

Never hold a small child while cooking.

Lots of things can catch fire. Keep all flammables—potholders, oven mitts, towels, curtains, food packaging, and paper and plastic bags—away from your stovetop.

Clean up food and grease from burners and the stovetop.

Avoid wearing loose clothes or dangling sleeves while cooking.

**Plug the microwave directly into an outlet—Never use an extension cord:**

Use only microwave-safe containers to heat food.

Allow food to cool for a minute or more before you remove it from the microwave.

Open micro waved containers slowly, as hot steam escaping can cause painful burns.

Let food and liquid cool all the way through before you eat or drink them.

Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave.

The DPS Fire Marshal Division invites communities to take advantage of the brand new lending library—videos, DVD’s, and other teaching materials are available to fire, education, and other service groups via [www.fire.state.nv.us](http://www.fire.state.nv.us) or email: [mpeltier@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:mpeltier@dps.state.nv.us)

For more information about Fire Prevention week, the lending library, and Nevada’s other fire-safety programs from the DPS, Fire Marshal Division and the Fire Prevention Association of Nevada, go to [www.fire.state.nv.us](http://www.fire.state.nv.us) and [www.fpanevada.org](http://www.fpanevada.org) or contact Michelle Peltier at 775-684-7504.

####